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ACT

In favours of the afflicted Inhabitants of the Town of KELSO, *through the late Fire, for a voluntar Contribution.*

Edinburgh, *the seventeenth day of* April, 1684.

FORASMUCH as there being a Representation made to the Lords of His Majesties Privy Council, by the Afflicted Inhabitants within the Town of *Kelso*, through the late Fire, bearing; That whereas, upon *Tuesday* the eighth of this Instant, betwixt three and four a Clock in the afternoon, there happened a most calamitous Fire, within the said Town of *Kelso*, which began first in a Malt-barn, whereby some Neighbouring Stacks of Corn were kindled, and these, by the violent tempestious Wind, blowing over the Town, did, in a sudden, put the whole in so universal a Conflagration, that these who were helping their Neighbours, did not know when their own Houses were Burning, in so much, that before nine a Clock of the Night, not only all the Houses, but the most part of all the Goods therein, and several Merchant Shops of considerable value, and above four thousand Bolls of Victual, lying in Girnels, and all the Corn-stacks in the Town, were burnt and laid in Ashes; during which time, the fury of the Flame, and rage of the Smoke, were so great in all the parts of the Town, that with great difficulty, Sick, and Infirm Persons, and Infant-children could be carried out of their Houses to the open Fields: By which sad Visitation, three hundred and six Families, conform to a List of the Masters Names, given in to the Lords of Council, have had their Dwelling-houses within the said Town, utterly burnt down; and of this, not twenty will ever be able to Rebuild again, upon their own Means and Expences; and the loss of Merchants is so great, that it cannot be well known, the particular loss of some of them, being valued above twenty thousand Pounds *Scots*, and of others, above a thousand Pound *Sterling*; and the more indigent sort of People, have lost the whole Sustenance of their Livelihood, through the Burning, both of their Houses and Corns; so that with much difficulty, they have been hitherto Supplyed with the Charity of their Neighbours, which will not serve long to Sustain them, without the Council, in Commiseration of their necessitous Condition, shall graciously be pleased to provide for them, a more universal and seasonable Supply. And humbly supplicating, That the Council would recommend them, and their desolate and indigent Families, to the Charity of the whole Kingdom, and grant Order and Warrand for that effect, in manner under-written. The Lords of his Majesties Privy Council having considered the foresaid Petition, and being sufficiently informed of the verity of the foresaid Representation, and of the great Distress the poor Inhabitants of the said Burgh, are reduced to by the said late Fire. Do Recommend their Distressed and Afflicted Condition, to the Charity of all good People within the whole Kingdom; And recommends to the Arch-bishops and Bishops, to cause Intimation be made hereof, in the several Parish Churches of their respective Dioceses, upon a Sabbath Day, or to take such course otherwise, as may make the Recommendation most effectual for the Petitioners Help and Relief; and appoints Mr. *Robert Brodie* Advocat, to be Collector of the said Contribution, who hath found sufficient Caution, Acted in the Books of Privy Council, to do exact Diligence, for inbringing thereof, and to see what shall be uplifted, bestowed in the most equal manner, for the Relief of the Inhabitants.

Extracted by me,

WILL. PATERSON, *Cls. Sti. Concilij.*

GOD save the KING.

Printed by the Heirs of [illegible] *to the most Sacred Majesty, Anno Dom.* 1684.